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NSC BRIEFING

9 March 1980

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IRAN-USSR

I. Soviet-Iranian relations continue strained.

II. Moscow's year-old pressure campaign on Tehran being stepped-up.

- A. Radio propaganda more hardhitting and playing on nerves of easily depressed and very suspicious Shah. Radio Moscow declared 7 March that during President Eisenhower's visit in December to Turkey, President Menderes gave him a list of influential Iranians, including military figures, who are allegedly "preparing a coup d'etat." The broadcast accused Turkish officials of trying to convince the President that the Shah's regime is unstable and that he "must be replaced."

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- B Clandestine Soviet controlled "National Voice of Iran" has alleged that Gen. Bakhtiar, chief of the National Intelligence and Security Organization, and Gen. Nasiri, head of the Royal Guard, are competing for US support in plots against the Shah.

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IV. We doubt that Soviet-sponsored subversion alone, at this time, is sufficient to cause the downfall of the Shah.

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